

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (New) A perforated skin for an acoustic element, said skin consisting of at least one web of substantially rectilinear fibers associated with a resin, wherein the perforations define a regular repeat pattern and affect at least 25% of the skin, the fibers of said web or webs being uninterrupted by the perforations at least over a major portion of the skin thus perforated.

17. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, which is perforated to 30-40%.

18. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least some of the fibers of at least one web are substantially parallel to one another and oriented in such a way that they follow a series of parallel channels free of perforations.

19. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, which comprises at least two webs, in each of which at least certain fibers are substantially parallel to one another, said parallel fibers of one of the webs being oriented in such a way that they follow a first series of parallel channels free of perforations and the parallel fibers of the other web being oriented in such a way that they follow a second series of parallel channels free of perforations, the first series of channels cutting the second series of channels.

20. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, in which the regular repeat pattern is an equilateral triangle, said skin comprising at least one series of three webs, in each of which at least certain fibers are substantially parallel to one another, each web having its parallel fibers oriented parallel to one of the sides of the equilateral triangle.

21. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, in which the regular repeat pattern is a rectangle, said skin comprising at least one series of four webs, in each of which at least certain fibers are substantially parallel to one another, two of the webs having their parallel fibers oriented parallel to each of the pairs of sides of the rectangle and the other two

webs having their parallel fibers oriented parallel to each of the diagonals of the rectangle.

22. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fibers of said web or webs are unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers.

23. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least two of said webs belong to a fabric having fibers along a first direction and fibers along a second direction that cuts the first, said fabric being oriented in such a way that at least certain fibers along the first direction and at least certain fibers along the second direction follow channels free of perforations.

24. (New) An acoustic element formed from an external skin/honeycomb/internal skin sandwich, said external skin being intended to be placed on the noise source side, wherein said external skin is a skin as claimed in claim 16.

25. (New) An acoustic element formed from an external skin /honeycomb/internal skin sandwich, said external skin being intended to be placed on the noise source side, said external skin being a skin as claimed in claim 16 and being

fastened, on its face opposite the honeycomb, to a porous woven metal fabric from 1 to 2/10 mm in thickness and having a gas penetration resistance of between 20 and 40 Pa.s/m.

26. (New) An acoustic element formed from an external skin/honeycomb/internal skin sandwich, said external skin being intended to be placed on the noise source side, said external skin being a skin as claimed in claim 16, and at least some of the fibers of at least one web of said external skin being substantially parallel to one another and oriented in such a way that they follow a series of parallel channels free of perforations

27. (New) An acoustic element formed from an external skin /honeycomb/internal skin sandwich, said external skin being intended to be placed on the noise source side and being a skin as claimed in claim 16, at least some of the fibers of at least one web of said external skin being substantially parallel to one another and oriented in such a way that they follow a series of parallel channels free of perforations, said external skin being fastened, on its face opposite the honeycomb, to a porous woven metal fabric from 1 to 2/10 mm in thickness and having a gas penetration resistance of between 20 and 40 Pa.s/m,

28. (New) A process for manufacturing a skin as claimed in claim 19, which comprises, prior to the perforation step, a step of depositing said webs on a former for shaping purposes, wherein:

- in respect of the deposition, one lays:

- . at least one web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a first direction and

- . at least one second web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a second direction that cuts the first; and

- in respect of the perforation, one applies a pattern of such a geometry and of such an orientation relative to said first and second directions that at least certain fibers of the first and second webs remain uninterrupted.

29. (New) The process for manufacturing a skin as claimed in claim 20, which comprises, prior to the perforation step, a step of depositing said webs on a former for shaping purposes, wherein:

- in respect of the deposition, one lays:

- . at least one first web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a first direction, 0° ,

- . at least one second web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a second direction, at $+60^{\circ}$ to the first direction and

- . at least one third web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a third direction, at -60° to the first direction; and

- in respect of the perforation, one applies a pattern in the form of equilateral triangles oriented in such a way that the first direction corresponds to that of one side of an equilateral triangle of the pattern.

30. (New) The process for manufacturing a skin as claimed in claim 21, which comprises, prior to the perforation step, a step of depositing said webs on a former for shaping purposes, wherein:

- in respect of the deposition, one lays:

- . at least one first web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a first direction, 0° ,

. at least one second web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in a second direction, at $+90^\circ$ to the first direction and

. at least one third and a fourth web of unidirectional or virtually unidirectional fibers associated with a resin in third and fourth directions along each of the respective diagonals of a rectangle of the future perforation pattern; and

-in respect of the perforation, one applies a pattern in the form of rectangles, which are oriented in such a way that the third and fourth directions correspond to those of the diagonals of a rectangle of the pattern.

31. (New) The process for manufacturing a skin as claimed in claim 21, which comprises, prior to the perforation step, a step of depositing said webs on a former for shaping purposes, in which the rectangular pattern is a square pattern, wherein:

- in respect of the deposition, one lays:

. in a first direction, at least one fabric layer associated with a resin and comprising warp yarns and weft yarns substantially perpendicular to one another, the direction of said warp yarns being taken as the first direction and

. in a second direction, 45° to the first direction, at least one fabric layer associated with a resin and comprising warp yarns and weft yarns substantially perpendicular to one another, the direction of said warp or weft yarns being taken as the second direction; and - in respect of the perforation, one applies a pattern of squares oriented in such a way that the first direction corresponds to that of a diagonal of a square of the pattern.

32. (New) A process for manufacturing a skin as claimed in claim 16, which consists, during the deposition, in orienting at least some of the fibers which will remain uninterrupted after perforation in a direction corresponding to a direction of maximum stress of the element, once in service.

33. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 17, wherein at least some of the fibers of at least one web are substantially parallel to one another and oriented in such a way that they follow a series of parallel channels free of perforations.

34. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 17, which comprises at least two webs, in each of which at least certain fibers are substantially parallel to one another, said

parallel fibers of one of the webs being oriented in such a way that they follow a first series of parallel channels free of perforations and the parallel fibers of the other web being oriented in such a way that they follow a second series of parallel channels free of perforations, the first series of channels cutting the second series of channels.

35. (New) The skin as claimed in claim 17, in which the regular repeat pattern is an equilateral triangle, said skin comprising at least one series of three webs, in each of which at least certain fibers are substantially parallel to one another, each web having its parallel fibers oriented parallel to one of the sides of the equilateral triangle.